THIS WE'LL DEFEND

UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING CENTER AIR DEFENSE

FORT BLISS TEXAS

COMPANY B
3d Bn. 2d Bde.

REPLICA OF THE ORIGINAL
FORT BLISS
CONSTRUCTED NOVEMBER 1948 IN
COMMEMORATION OF 100th ANNIVERSARY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS US ARMY TRAINING CENTER, AIR DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79916

This book is dedicated to soldiers in the making. You have already faced challenges in your basic training; and you will overcome many more obstacles as you become a full-fledged member of the United States Army. In later years, as you view the events depicted in this book, you will recall the spirit of teamwork and the effort that went into making you a soldier.

These things--spirit, sense of cooperation, and devotion to duty--are essential to every military unit if it is to live on the battlefield. To be an effective soldier in our proud American Army, you must continue to develop these attributes throughout your military career in all of your endeavors. These same characteristics are invaluable in making you a responsible and worthy citizen of these United States.

Robert H. Safford

ROBERT H. SAFFORD
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT H. SAFFORD

Brigadier General Robert H. Safford assumed duties as Commanding General, United States Army Training Center (Air Defense) on 14 November 1966 after a tour of duty as Chief of Staff, I Corps (Group) Korea.

The General was commissioned in the Artillery Branch upon his graduation from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point in 1936. His first years of service included battery-level positions in Maryland, Oklahoma, Missouri and the Philippine Islands. During World War II, he commanded the 310th Field Artillery Battalion of the 79th Infantry Division which won a Presidential Citation for action in Alsace.

His postwar assignments included two tours at West Point and one with the U. S. Army in Austria. In June 1954, he began successive assignments as Commanding Officer, Support Group; Commanding Officer, Division Artillery; and Chief of Staff of the famous 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

He later became Chief of Staff, U. S. Army Alaska, and left that post in June 1962 to command the 1st Field Artillery Missile Brigade at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Prior to his Korean tour, General Safford was Assistant Division Commander of the 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

The General is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medals with Oak Leaf Clusters; the Purple Heart, the Croix de Guerre avec Palme, the French Fourragere, and Distinguished Unit Badge.

COLONEL EDMUND CASTLE

Colonel Edmund Castle is the Deputy Commander of the United States Army Training Center (Air Defense), a position he assumed on 31 August 1966. He was previously the Commanding Officer of the 1st Training Brigade (Air Defense).

Prior to coming to Fort Bliss in September 1965, Colonel Castle commanded the Lordstown Military Reservation in Warren, Ohio.

The Colonel received his commission upon graduation from Officer Candidate School at Fort Monroe, Virginia, in 1941. His first command was that of Battery F, 67th Coast Artillery in the European Theater during World War II. Since then, he has served in a wide variety of command and staff positions in Europe and the Far East as well as the United States.

During these tours of duty, Colonel Castle has been Chief of Staff, Headquarters, U. S. Army Ryukyu Islands, Okinawa; Commander of the 5th Army Antiaircraft Battalion, Armed Forces Far East; and Commander of an artillery battalion here at Fort Bliss.

The numerous military schools he has attended include the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

In over 24 years of active duty, Colonel Castle has received many awards and decorations. Among these are the Bronze Star, the Soldier's Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

headquarters—u. s. army training center

FORT BLISS, TEXAS

Fort Bliss, now the Free World's largest and foremost Air Defense center, took root in the then-unsettled American Southwest 55 years before the airplane was invented. The first U.S. soldiers were dispatched to this area by a War Department order on 7 November 1848. A few months later, necessary reconnaissance was completed and the 3rd Infantry was directed to set up an Army post in "The Pass of the North"—El Paso del Norte.

The next June a military caravan, along with settlers and supplies, set out on a 673-mile, three-month march from San Antonio to establish the new installation. Arriving on the flooding banks of the Rio Bravo (now called the Rio Grande), they rented a few existing ranch buildings and began the primitive frontier life of the early Southwest. First known as the Post of El Paso, the station was renamed Fort Bliss in 1854, in honor of Brevet Lt. Col. William Wallace Smith Bliss. Col. Bliss, brilliant son-in-law of President Zachary Taylor, had died of yellow fever the previous year in New Orleans.

The post's early existence was shaky. Twice it was declared "excess" by the War Department; four times it was moved; briefly during the Civil War the flag of the Confederate States of America flew over its walls. Soldiers of many branches were stationed in it. But when a railroad was put through to El Paso in 1881, Fort Bliss began to assume more importance. Twelve years later a number of permanent buildings were erected. One now houses the Main Post Exchange; more than 20 others are still in use today.

In 1912 Fort Bliss became one of the nation's leading cavalry posts; and two year later General John J. (Blackjack) Pershing arrived to assume command. (The house that was built in 1910 and later used by Gen. Pershing now houses the Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Army Air Defense School and his family.) Gen. Pershing arrived during the Mexican Revolution, and in 1916 he led the Punitive Expedition into Mexico. Soon afterward the border fort expanded to accomodate 60,000 troops in tents reaching from Logan Heights to the very banks of the Rio Grande. In 1921 the 1st Cavalry Division set up headquarters here, and stayed at Fort Bliss until the division was sent into World War II combat in the South Pacific in 1942.

The departure of the "First Cav" started what might be called the "modern history" of Fort Bliss. That same year, five antiaircraft artillery units moved in. These outfits formed a training vanguard at Fort Bliss for nearly every "ack-ack" unit that saw action with American forces in World War II.

As early as 1944, Air Defense planning officers saw that the increasing speeds of modern aircraft would make tube-type artillery ineffective in many Air Defense missions. They developed the idea of a rocket, armed with a warhead, and guided from the ground. This dream became a reality in the early 1950s, when the Nike system became operational.

Meanwhile, the citizens of El Paso had not forgotten Fort Bliss' influence as a guardian during the earliest days of their city's existence. In 1948, to mark the centennial of the post's founding, they presented th Army with a replica of the original fort. The Replica now stands just southeast of the U.S. Army Reception Station.

Today, Fort Bliss is the home of the U.S. Army Air Defense Center. Almost every Nike and Hawk battalion in the Free World is formed and trained here. Every second of the day and night, these units send powerful radar beams to form a protective shield over the Free World—and over its powerful missiles that stand ready to strike down any enemy aircraft which might penetrate the shield. The missilemen using this equipment, from Turkey and Germany to Japan and Korea, speak many languages, but they all know of Fort Bliss. Most of them were trained here.

U.S. ARMY TRAINING CENTER (AIR DEFENSE)

On 17 September 1965, the Department of the Army publicly announced that existing training centers would be beefed up, and that new centers for Basic Combat Training (BCT) would be opened at Fort Bliss and Fort Benning, Ga. Fort Bliss officials set up the U.S. Army Training Center (AD), and by 4 October the new command was ready for activation.

The old 1st Air Defense Guided Missile Brigade (Training) was incorporated into the new USATC, becoming the 1st Training Brigade (Air Defense). Its primary mission of conducting Advanced Individual Training in AD Artillery was retained. To satisfy the requirement for conducting BCT, the new command set up two entirely new training brigades, each capable of training 4,400 soldiers at the same time.

Men, equipment and buildings were made available for this mission, and by 29 November 1965 the Training Center was ready for the 40 young Kansans who became Fort Bliss' first basic trainees since the Korean War era. Since 13 December 1965, the USATC has started about 880 recruits and inductees through the eight-week BCT program each week. Forty companies have been set up to handle this training load. The first BCT cycle graduated on 5 February 1966; and its men went for AIT and assignments with other units to Army posts throughout the nation.

trainee barracks

reception station

center chapel

trainee mess hall

physical combat proficiency test

marksmanship

inspection

close combat

pugil stick

chow in the field

dismounted drill

physical training

loading magazines

bayonet training

hand grenades

manual of arms

marksmanship

dismounted drill

physical training

bivouac

first aid

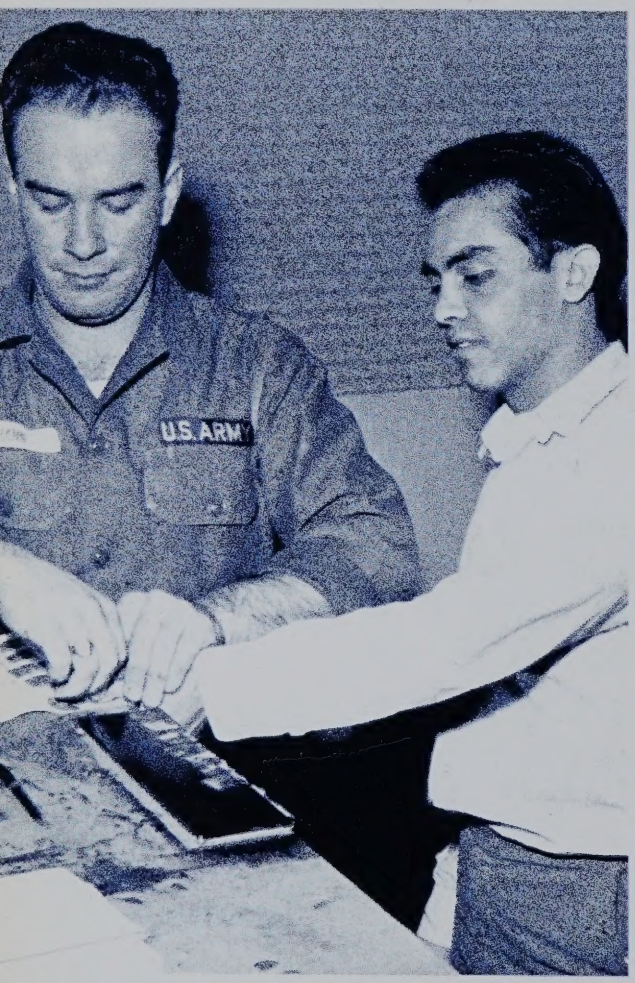
cbr

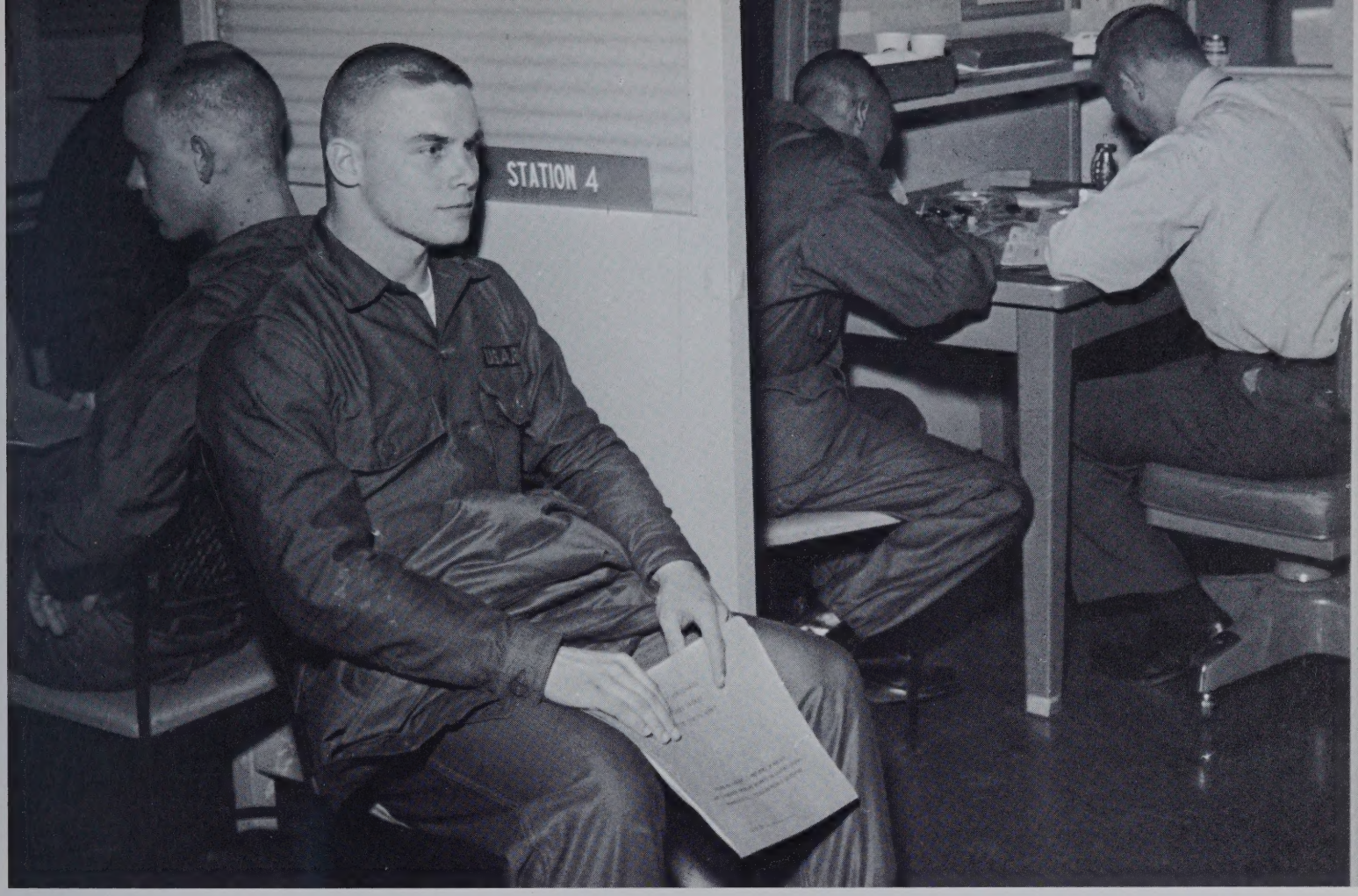
passing in review

graduation present arms

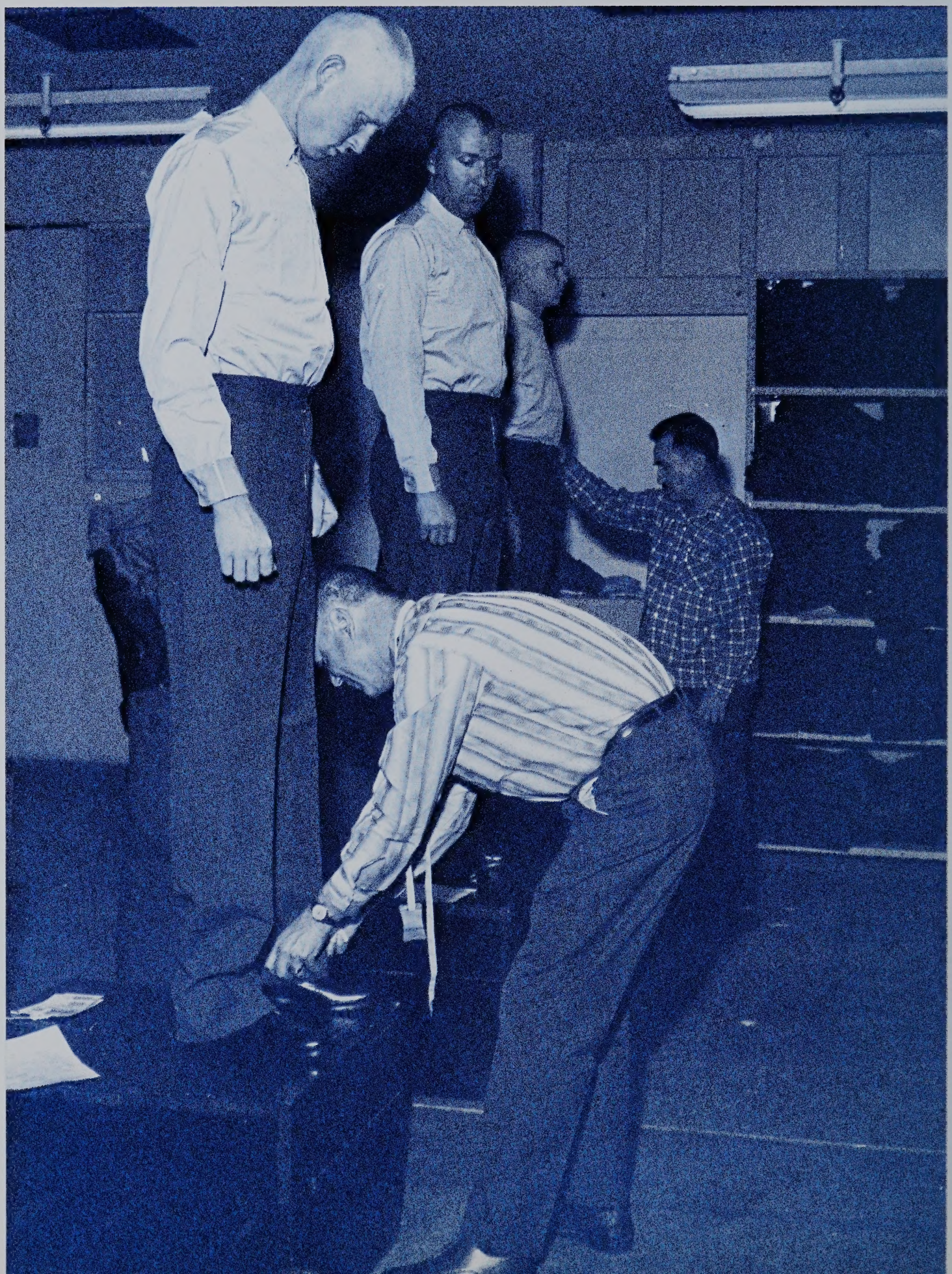
awards

reception station

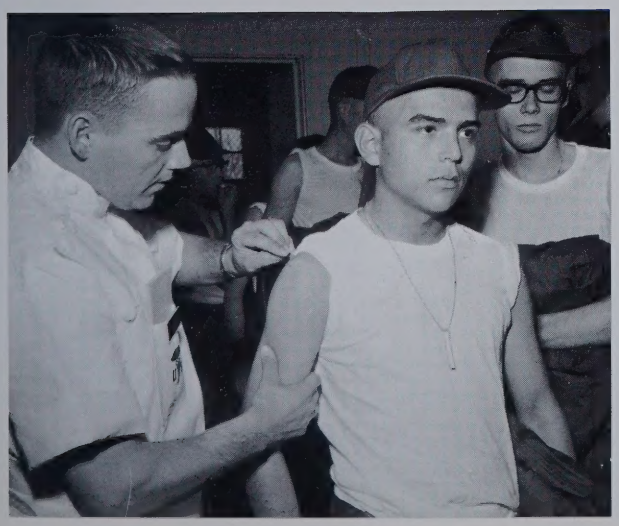

U.S. ARMY


STATION 4

uniform issue



shots



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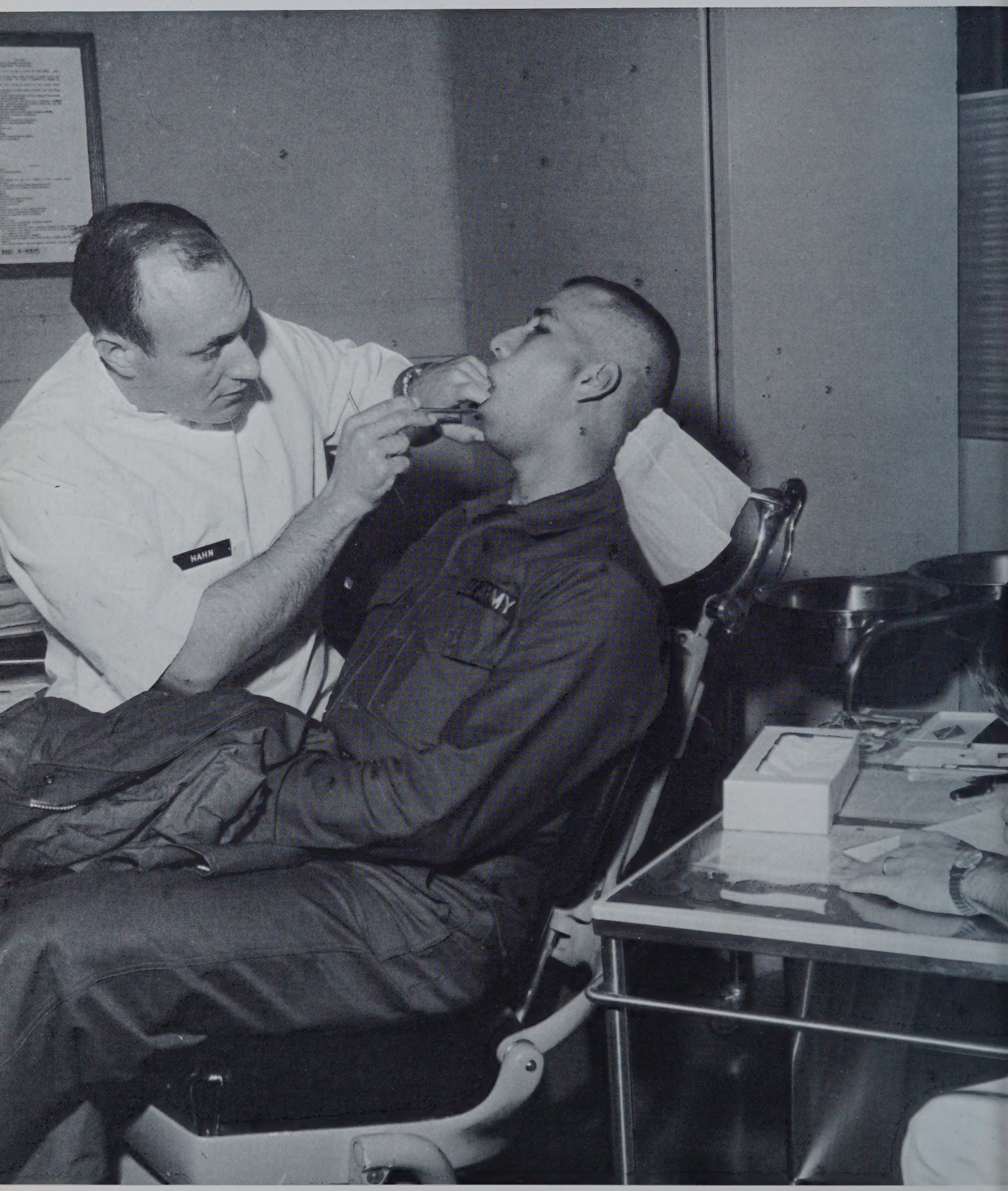
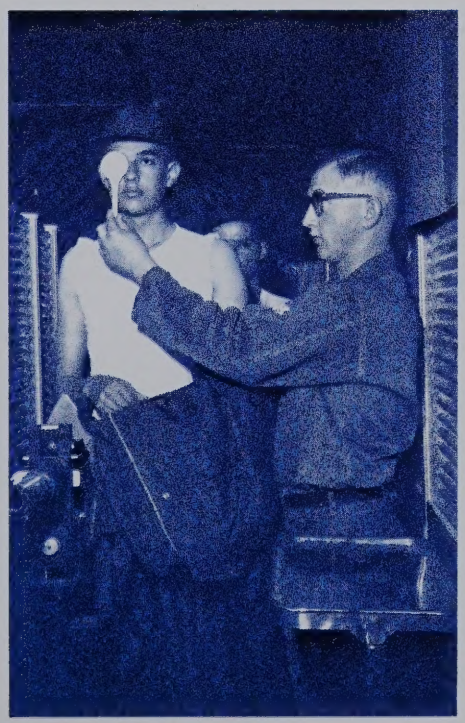


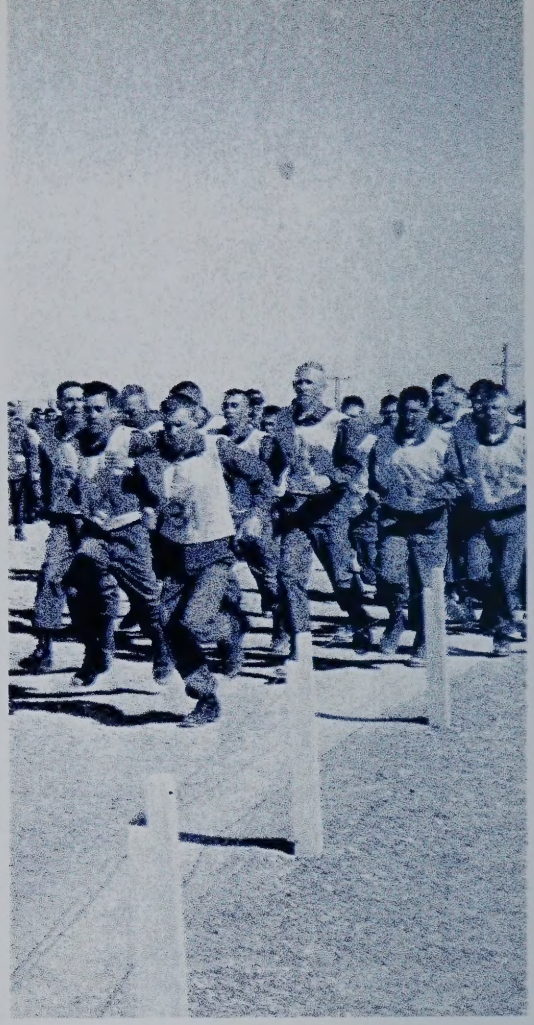
eye examination



dismounted drill

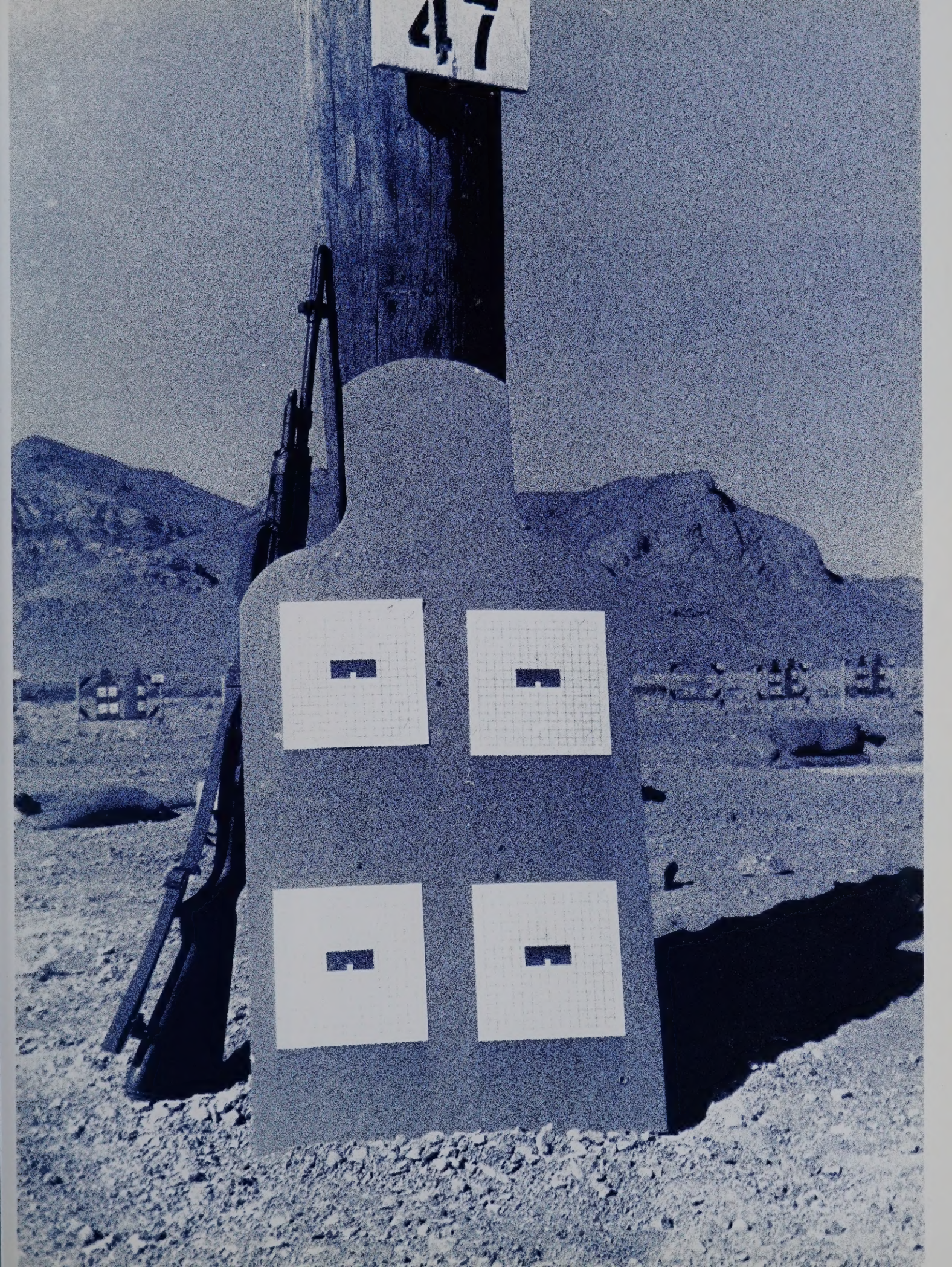
manual of arms

first aid



physical combat proficiency test

m-14 class


47

marksmanship

U.S. ARMY
U.S. ARMY

combat firing

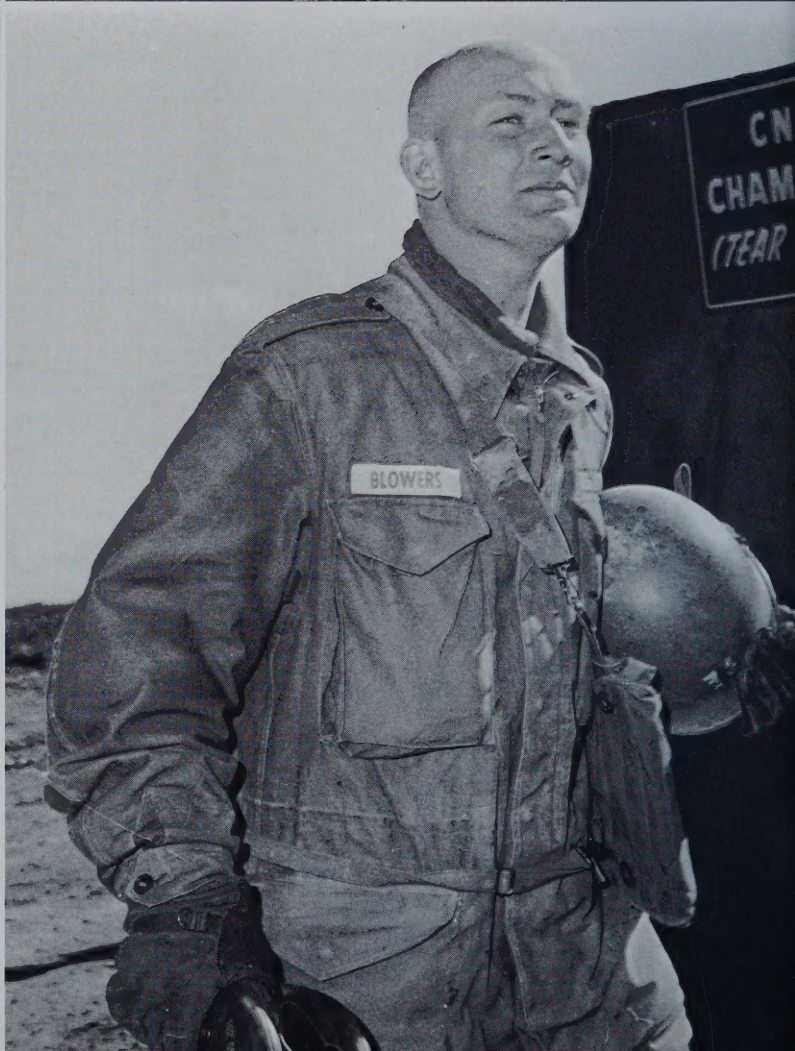
bayonet

hand to hand combat

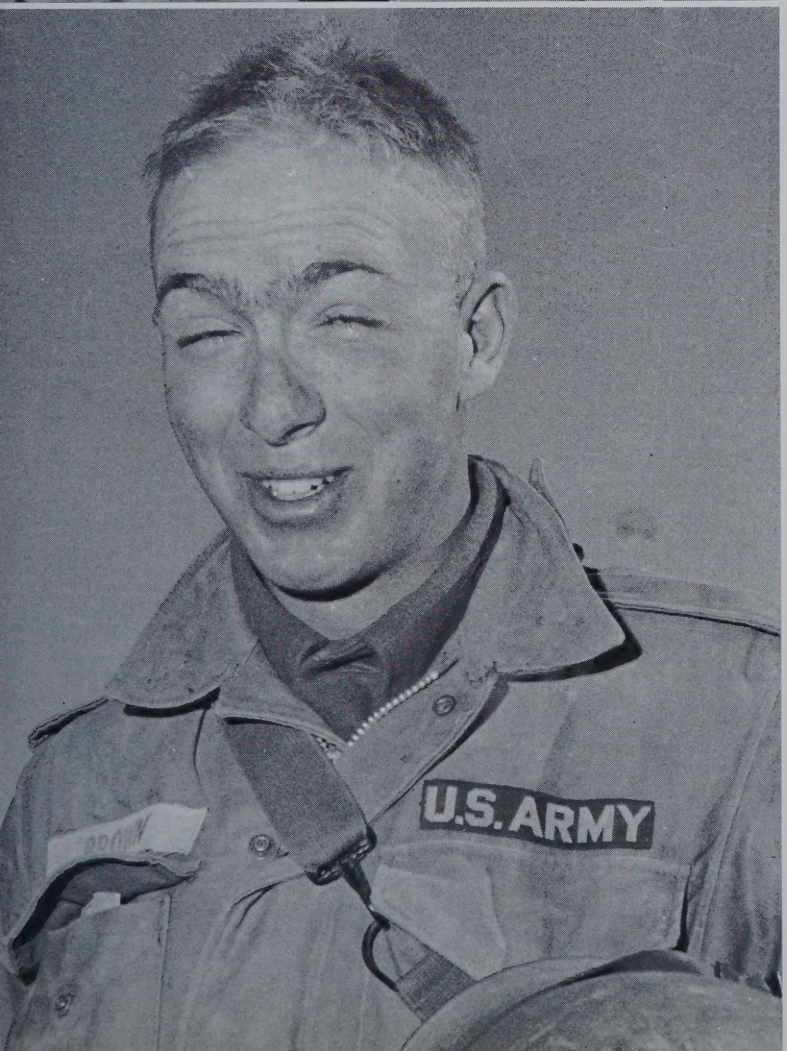
U.S. ARMY

pugil stick

U.S. ARMY


BLOWERS

cbr



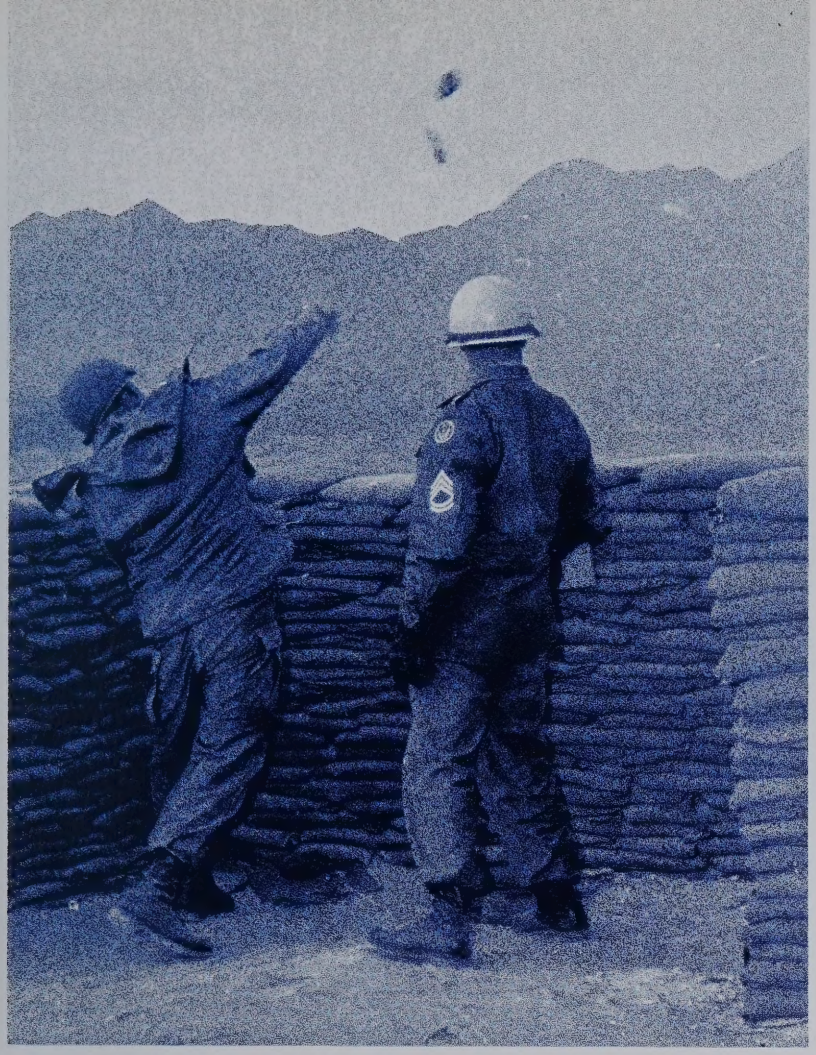
U.S. ARMY

chow in the field

bivouac

individual tactical training

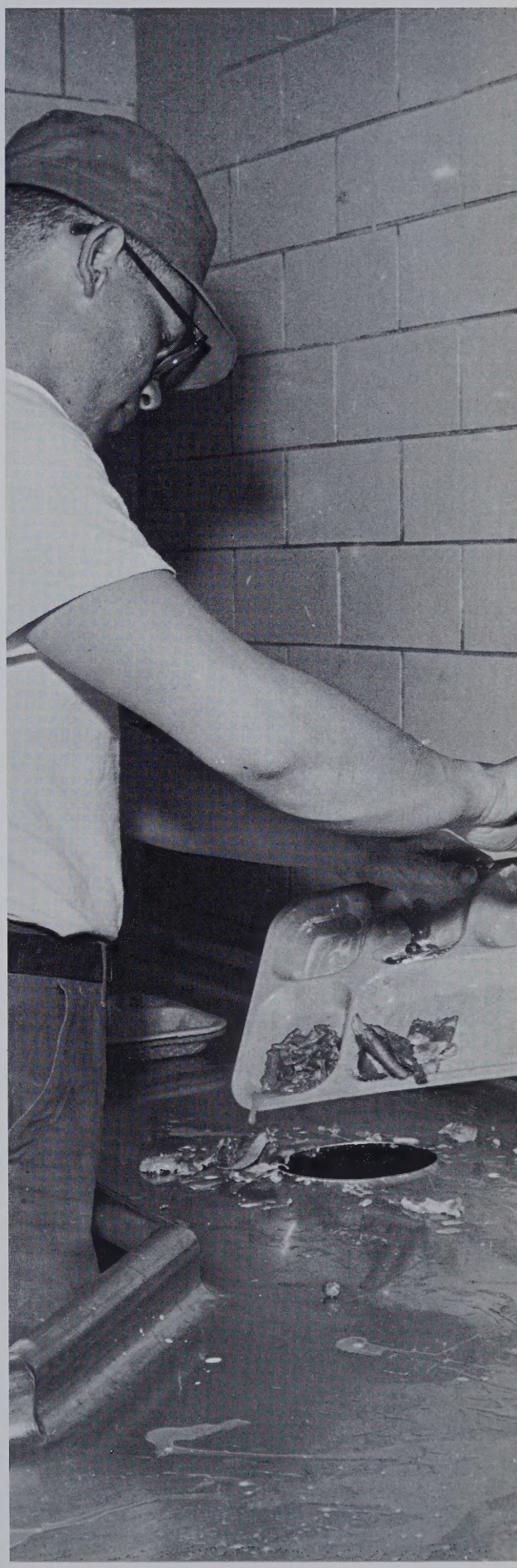
hand grenades



close combat course

infiltration course

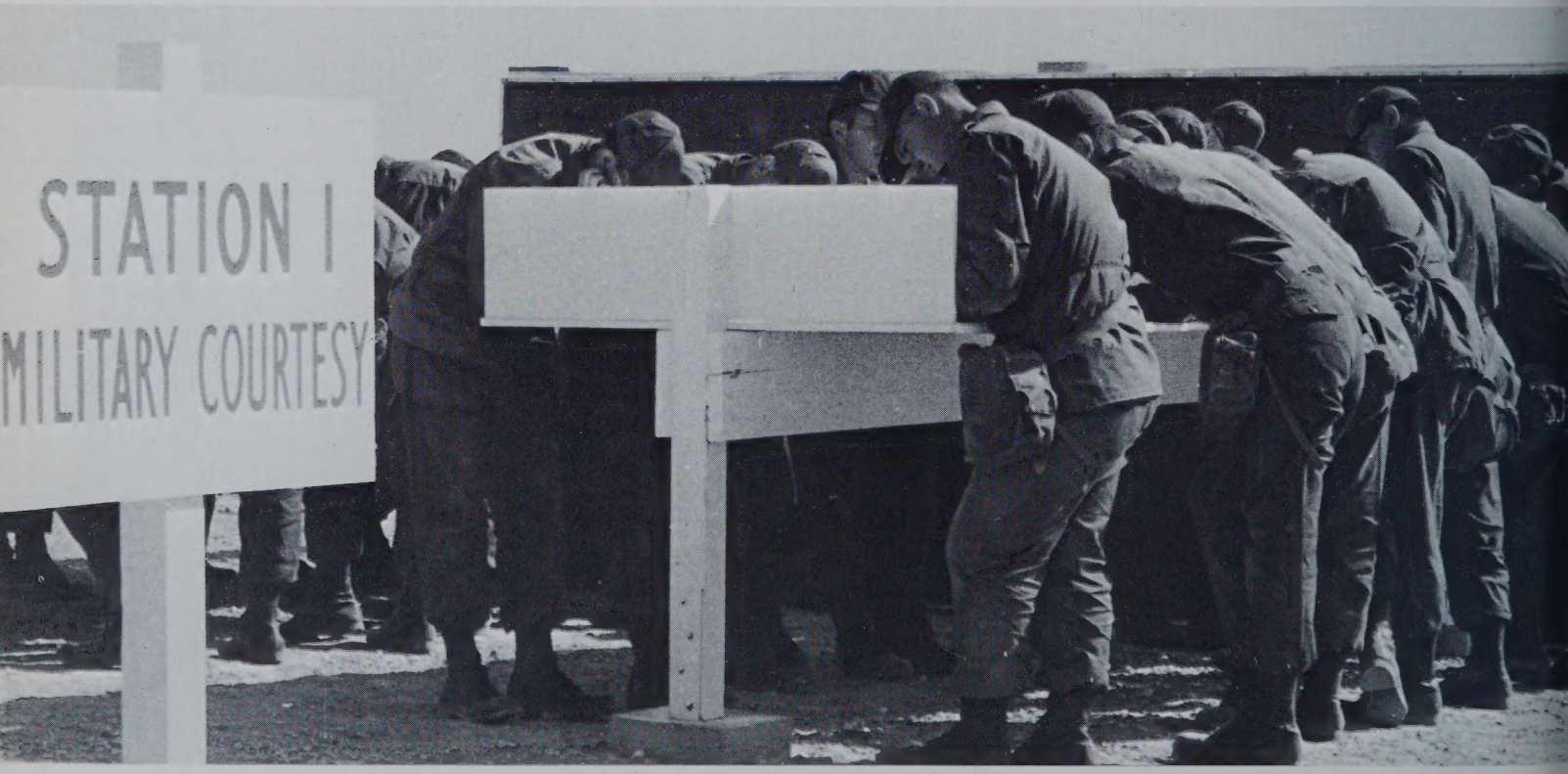
kp



inspection

bayonet assault course

proficiency test



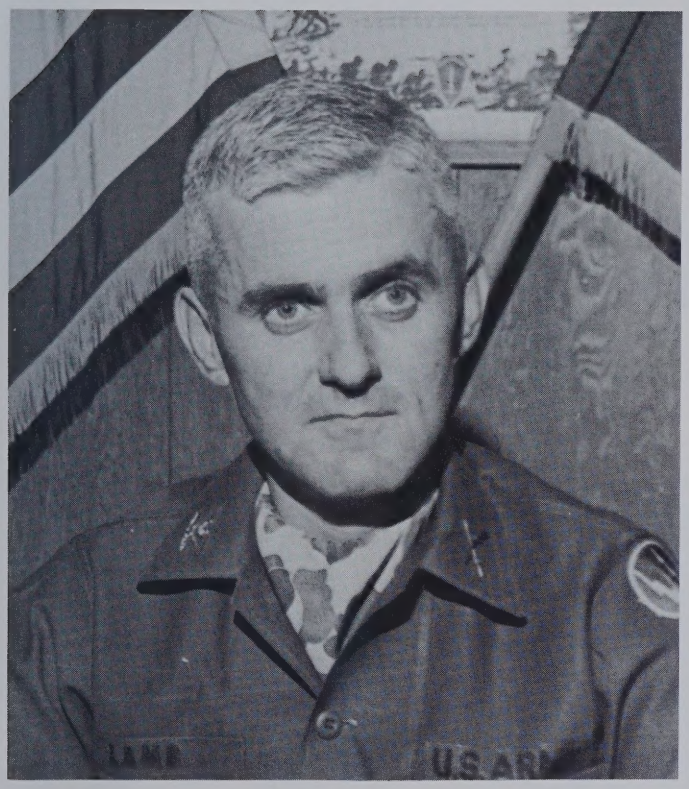
free time

FICTION

graduation

out processing

SECOND TRAINING BRIGADE



COL Robert J. Lamb, Jr.
Brigade Commander

LTC Colin W. McKenzie, Jr.
Battalion Commander

THIRD BATTALION

CSM Elbert Ivy, Jr.
Brigade Sergeant Major

2d BRIGADE
TRAINING
For
DUTY·HONOR·COUNTRY
ALWAYS FIRST

1SG Walter F. Dombrowski
Battalion Sergeant Major

Commenced Training:
10 February 1969

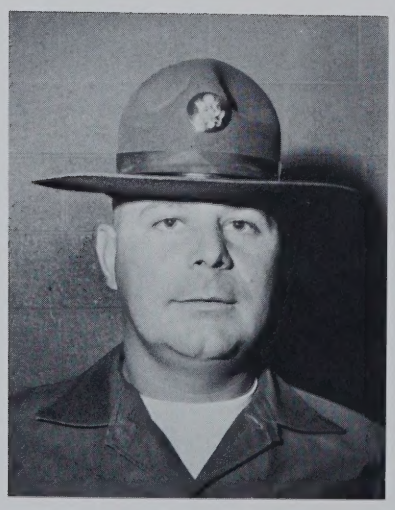
COMPANY B

Completed Training:
4 April 1969

CPT David E. Brink
Company Commander

2LT Charles C. Jackson
Training Officer

PSG Paul L. Price
First Sergeant

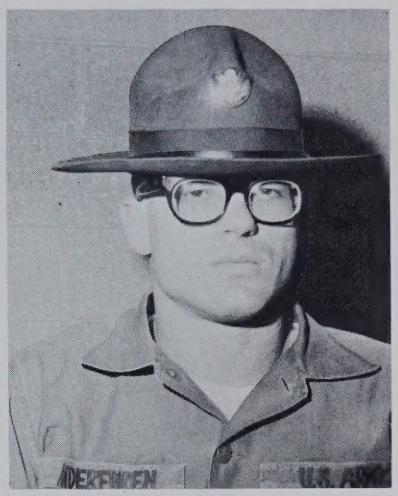


SSG George G. Clack
Field First Sergeant

SSG Gerald E. Veasey
Platoon Sergeant
First Platoon

SGT Roger Pratt
Platoon Sergeant
Second Platoon

SSG George F. Keillor
Platoon Sergeant
Third Platoon

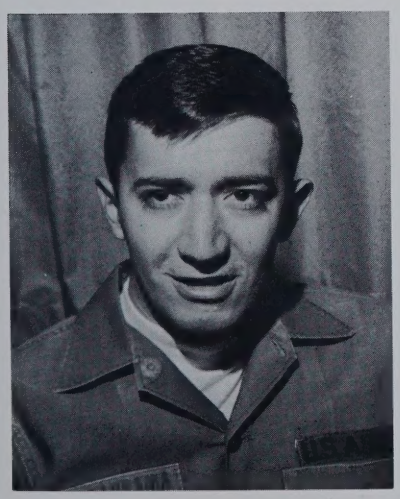


SGT Richard Anderfuren
Platoon Sergeant
Fourth Platoon

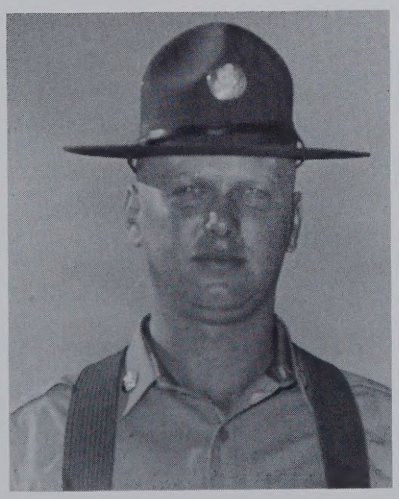
SGT Curtis Wilson
Drill Sergeant

SGT Benny D. Stevens
Drill Sergeant

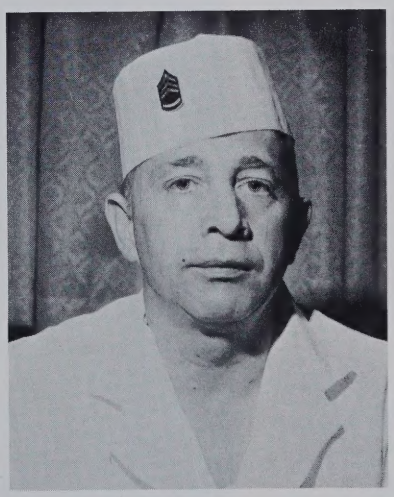
SGT Bobby H. Brinkley
Training NCO



SP5 Hector Guadarrama
Company Clerk



SSG Jesse J. Wolbert, Jr.
Supply Sergeant



SSG Frederick Greenwood
Mess Sergeant

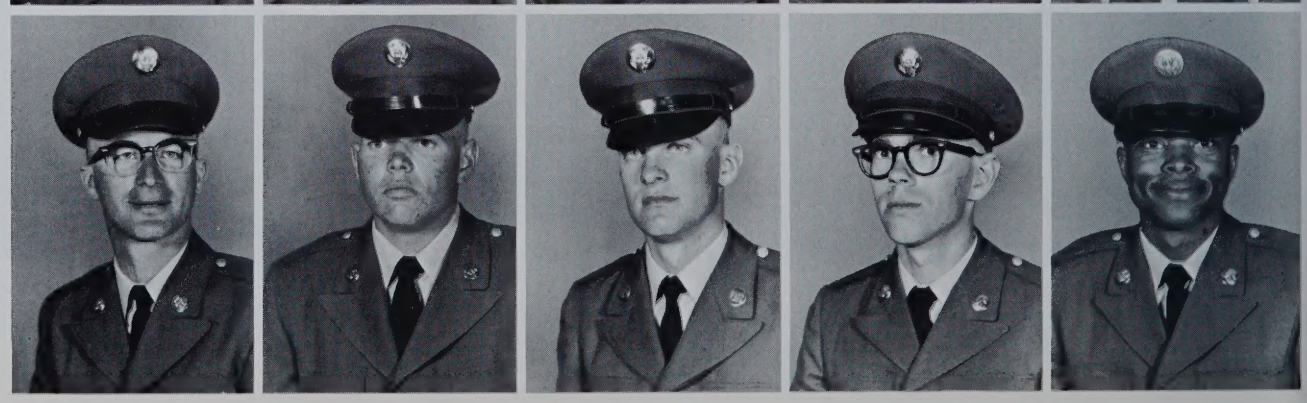
Reimundo Acosta
Frederick Adams
Thomas Alber
Adolfo Aleman
Floyd Allen

Michael Allen
Albert Allmon
Gregory Anderson
Jeffre Arnold
William Arnold

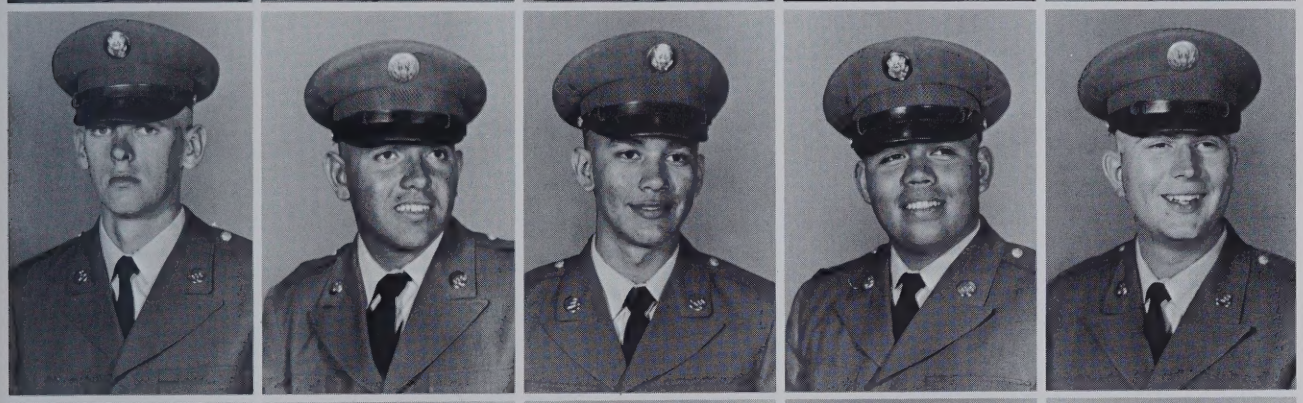
Lee Arst
William Ash
Richard Austen
Ronnie Baccus
David Baird

Richard Baker
Lester Balsley
Kenneth Barnes
Bret Batchelor
Jerry Bateman

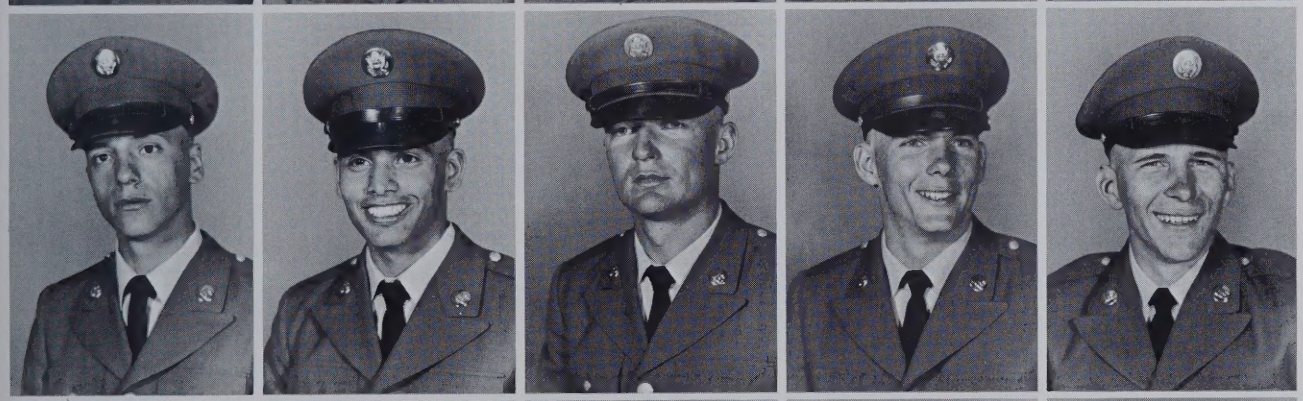
William Beckert
Danny Blake
David Bolles
Jeffrey Bosel
James Brown



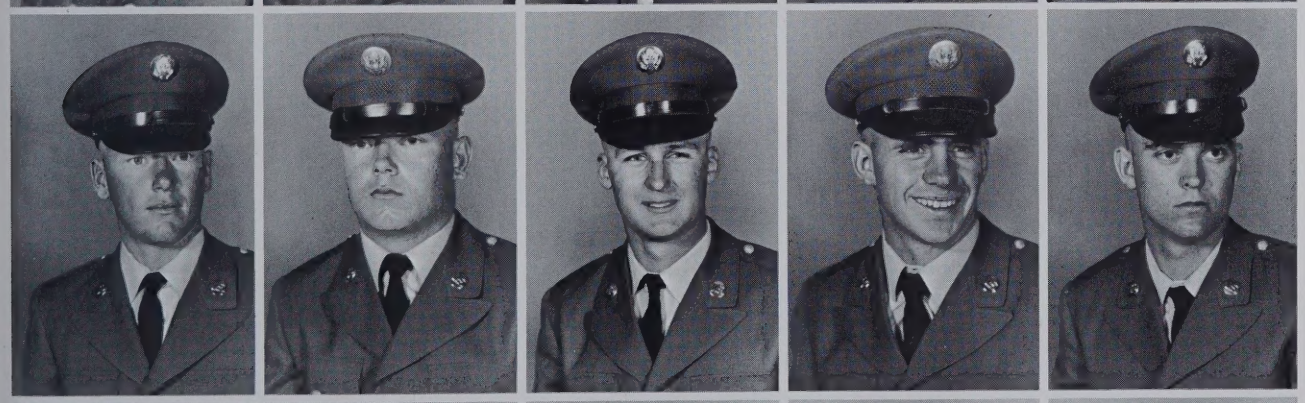
Louis Brown
Norris Bruce
Kirkland Brush
Benford Bullard
Herschel Burk



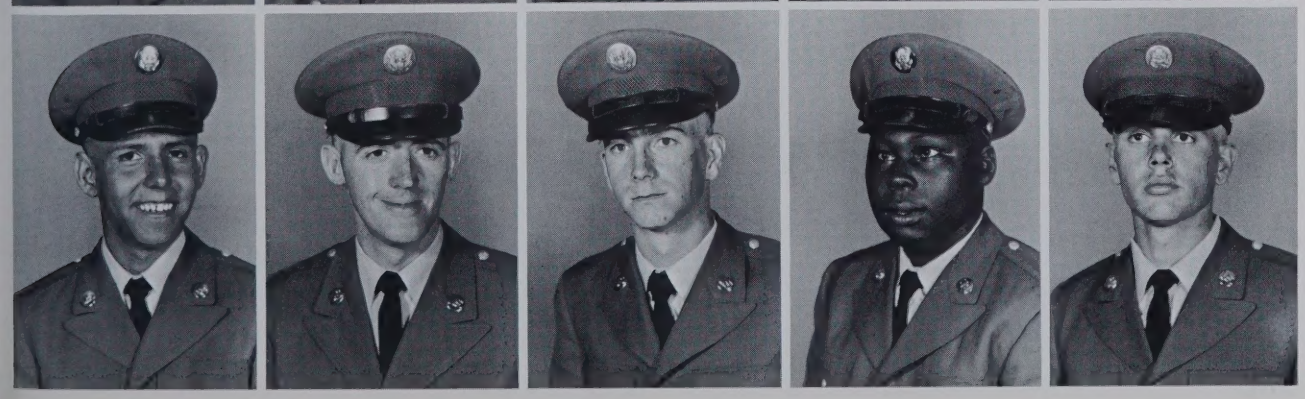
Robert Burke
Armando Bustamante
Ricardo Cantu
Rudolph Canto
Harry Cavalaris



Michael Cerra
Max Cervera
Harl Chamberlain
Earl Chandler
George Chandler

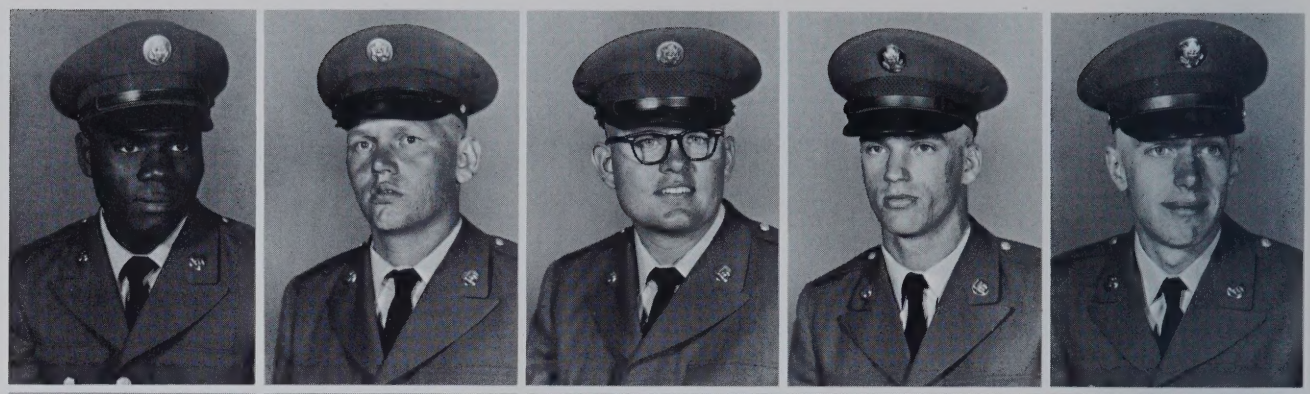


Jimmy Childers
John Cleveland
William Cooper
Donald Covey
Ross Cox

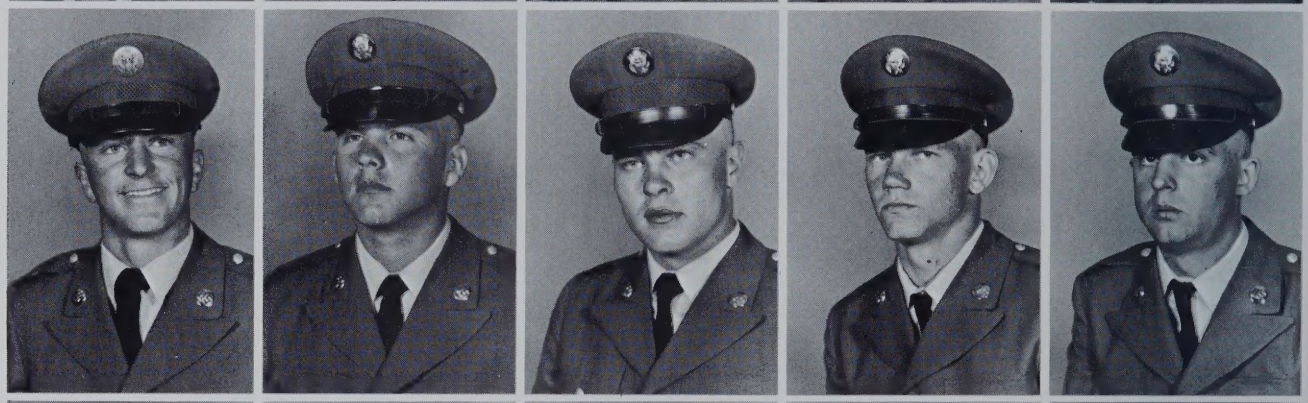


Ysidro Coyazo
Michael Cravens
David Curry
Henry Davenport
Larry Davidson

James Davis
Charles Deming
Larry Deskins
Richard Dix
John Donley



Claude Downard
Jessie Duke
Bruce Duncan
Barry Durham
William Dyer



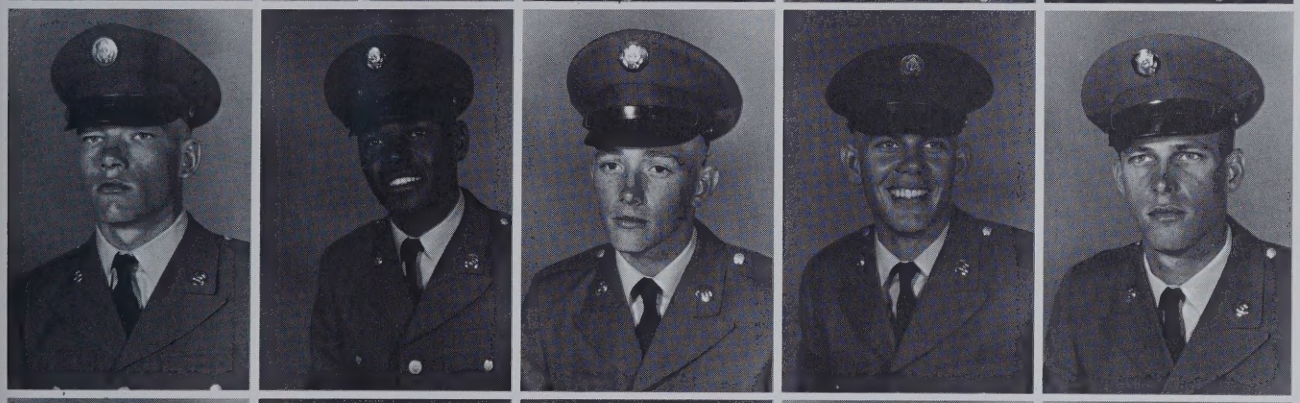
Donald Dyson
Clifford Escobar
Casanovia Faircloth
James Fanestiel
Douglas Flower

Michael Fournier
George Fraps
William Fulks
Vere Furnish
Nicky Gandy

Augustine Garcia
Juan Garcia
Robert Gates
James Gerritzen
Jerry Gifford

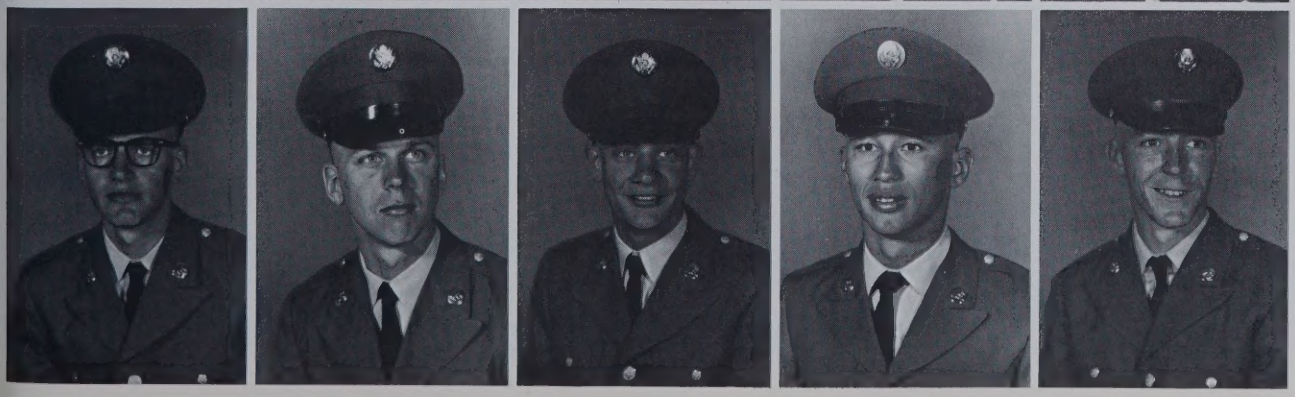
Paul Glace
Gerard Coffena
Pedro Gonzales
Alfred Gordon
Rupert Harkrider

Victor Harrington
Scott Harris
Dean Haws
Earl Hays
William Higgins



Wade Hinton
Lionel Holmes
Christopher Holmquest
Kevin Holt
Randall Holt

Robert Holt
Mark Holzwordt
Loyd Horn
Paul Horn
Kenneth Hucherson



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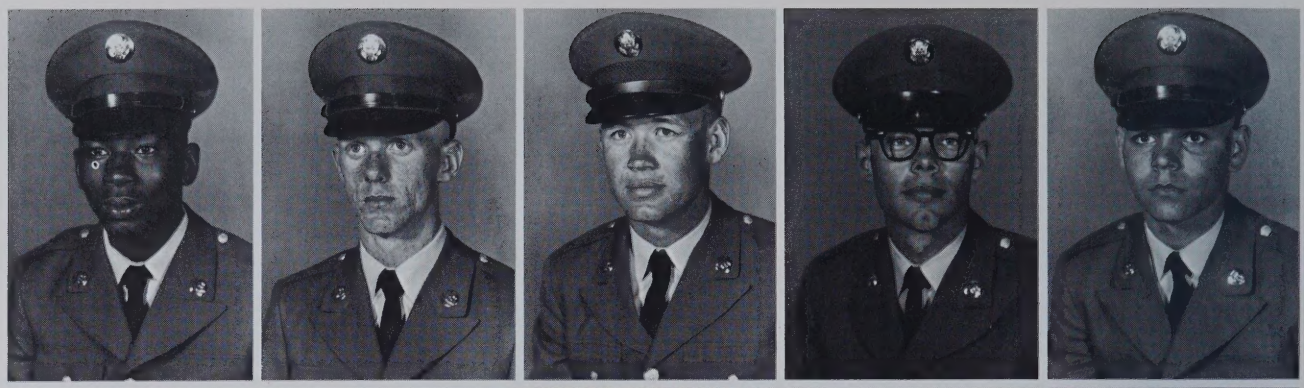
David Hunter
Steven Hurst
Angel Irizarry
Alan Jensen

Johnnie Johnson
Randall Jones
Stephen Jones
Willie Jones
Leo Kelly



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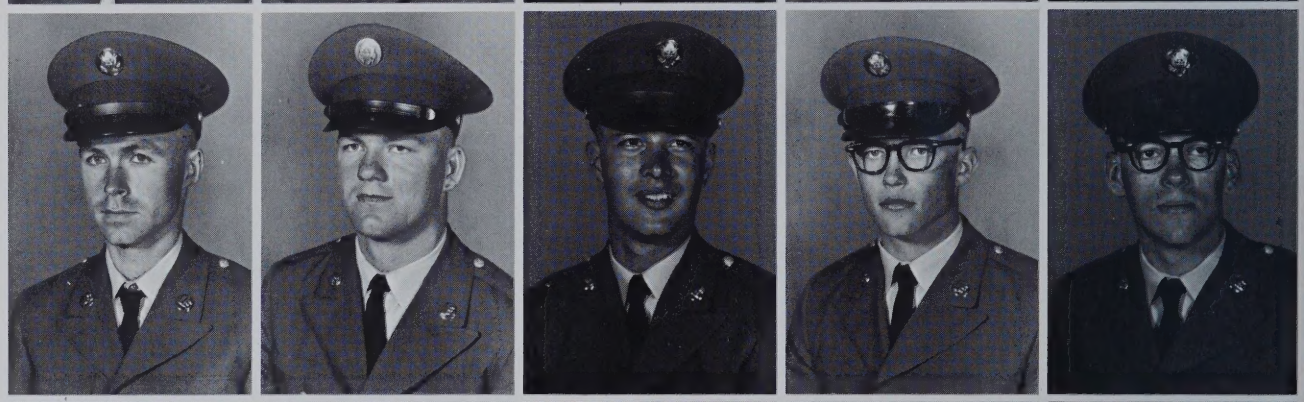
Ronald King
Douglas Kleckner
Warren Knox
William Kort

Michael Kostka
Ronald Krausse
John Kubiak
Jerry Larsen
Gary Lee



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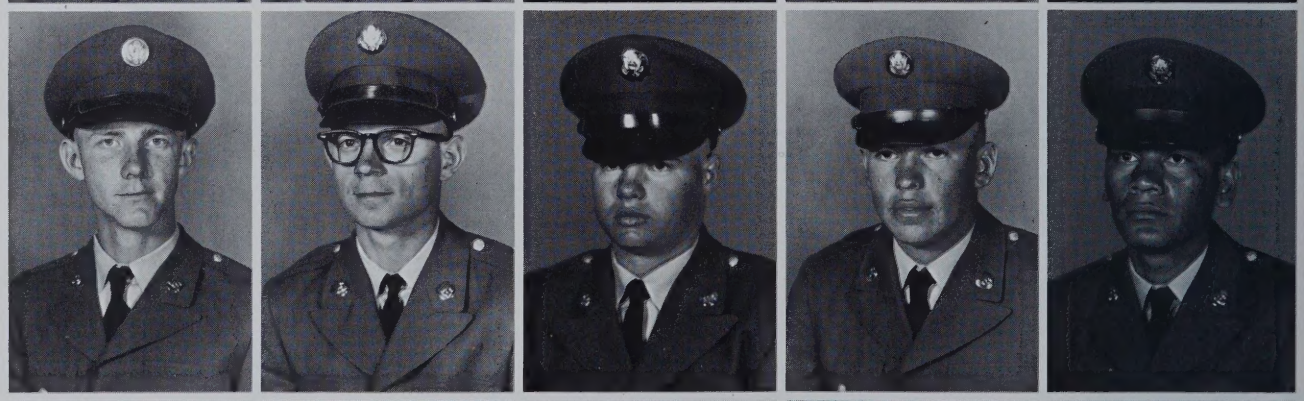
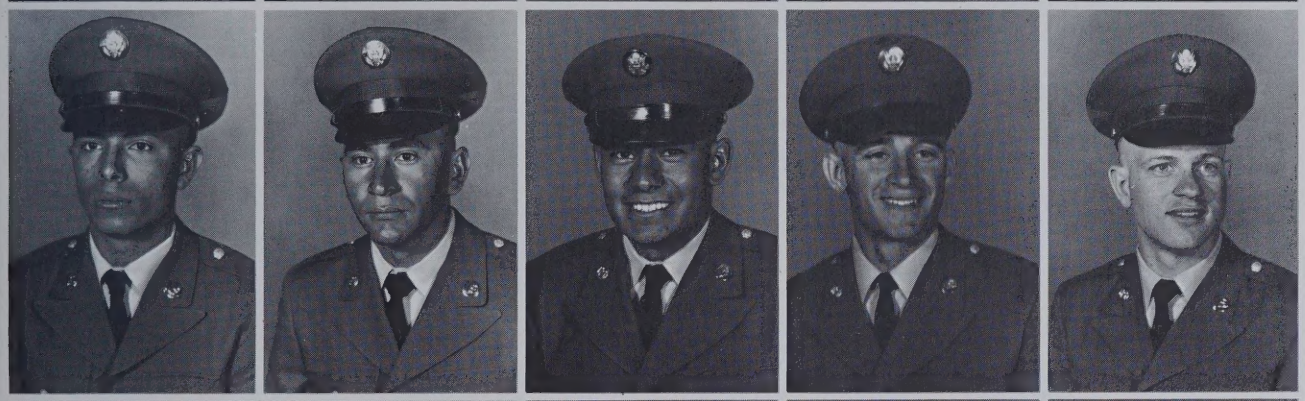
Richard Lewis
Michael Lindsey
Jesus Lopez
Joseph Lopez



Reynaldo Lopez
Charles Love
Kenneth Lucas
Gary MacDonald
Ronald McArthur

Donald McCracken
Michael McKee
Franklin McLaws
Donald McSwain
Larry Marr



Efrain Martinez
Ricardo Martinez
Robert Martinez
Terry Masterson
Todd Mesack

Paul Messamore
Henry Mikus
Ronald Miller
Jerry Milligan
David Mireles

Gilbert Molina
Robert Moore
Andres Moreno
James Mundell
William Nabor

Charles Nixon
Timmy Northcutt
Robert Nunns
Armandio Ortega
Jose Pacheco

Charles Parker
Charles Pearl
Mabry Perry
Troy Peery
Dennis Peterson

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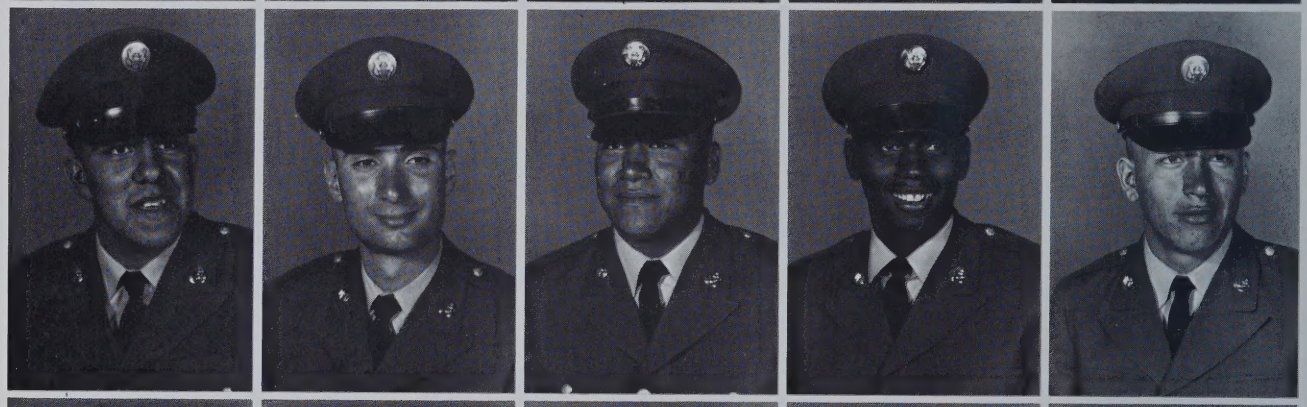
Jimmy Qualls

Leonardo Quintero
Steven Rand
Jonah Ray
Jackie Reagie
Oscar Reyes



Daniel Reyna
Winford Roberts
Benny Robinson
Moises Robles
Charles Rosen

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Michael Rysso
Mario Salinas
Gilberto Sanchez

Joe Sanchez
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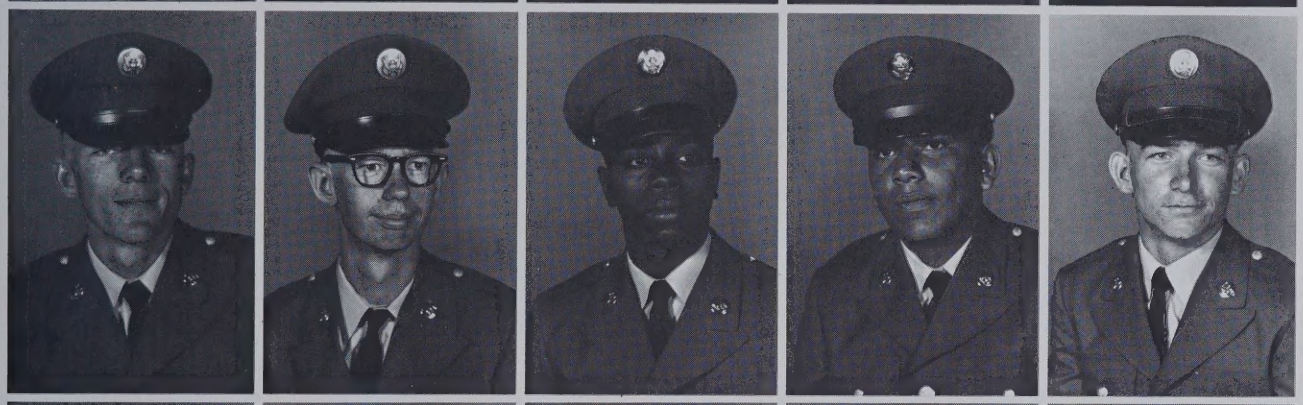
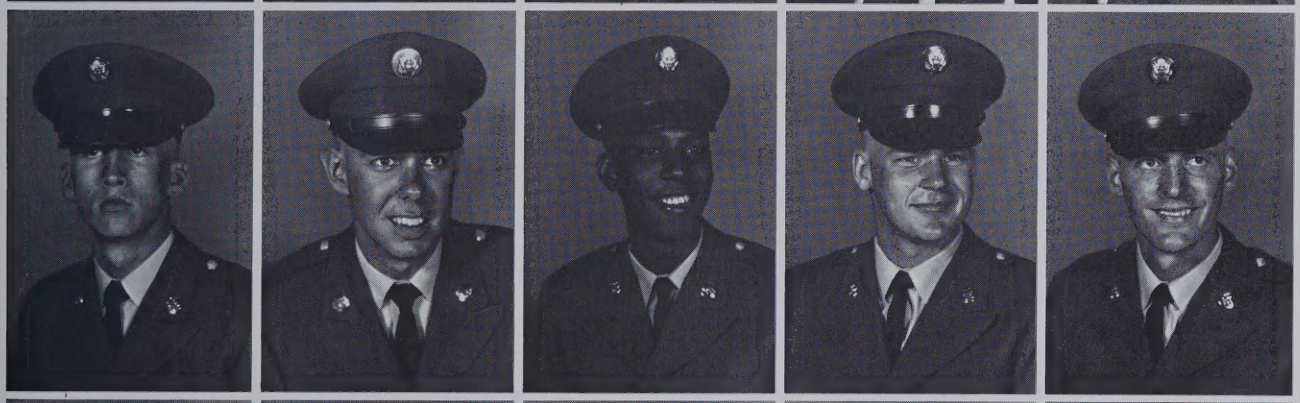
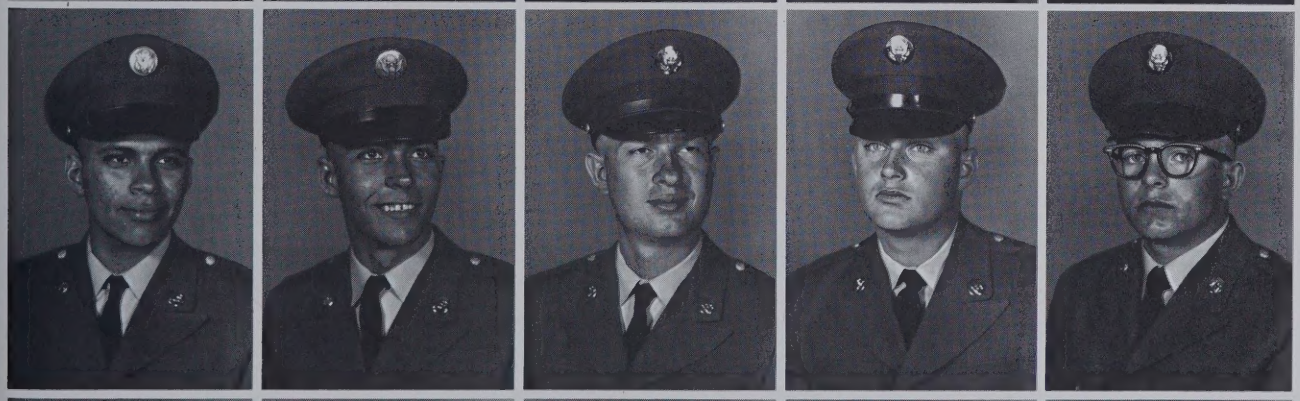
Ruben Sandoval
Saragoza Sandoval
Terry Sanford



Billy Sappenfield
Maynard Sargent
Billie Scott
Arthur Sermono
Donne Sherman



Larry Sherman
Michael Shields
Willie Simmons
Kimber Skidmore
Stewart Slimp



Roberto Sotelo
William Spann
Donald Stacey
Donald Stachowiak
Mark Stevenson

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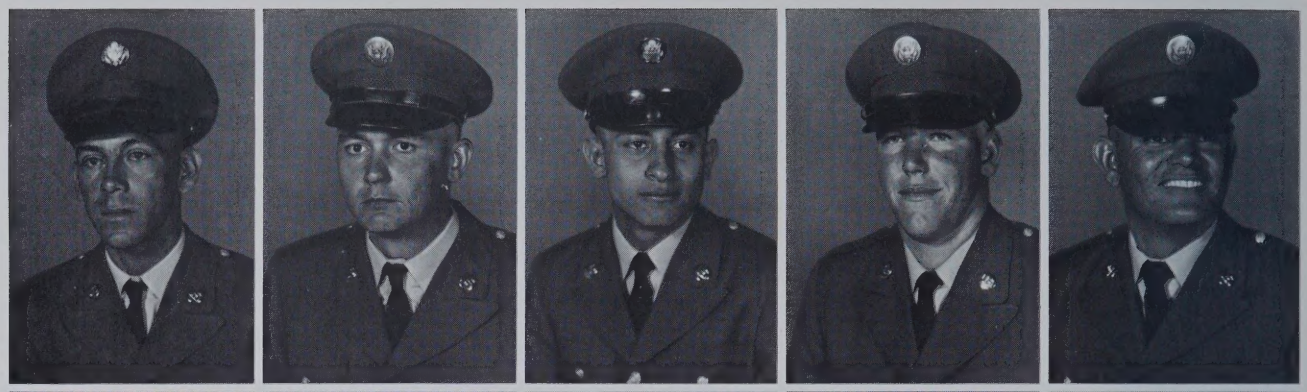
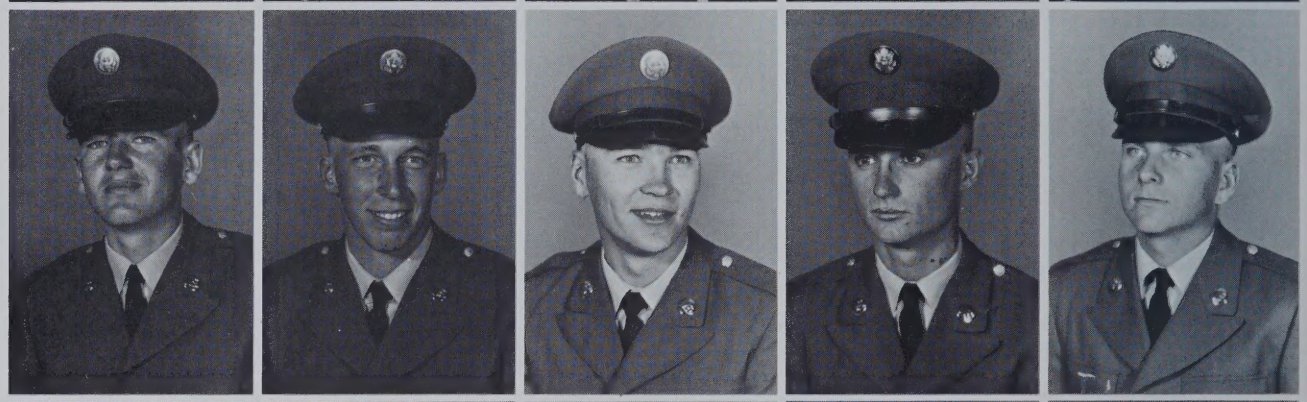
Charles Stone
Vannie Summers
Larry Swafford
Fred Tejeda

Peifano Tijerina
Donnie Todd
Enrique Torres
John Trepagnier
Alfonso Vasquez



Travis Wages
John Walden
Donald Walslager
Lester Walters
Ronald Warden



Jackie Washington
John Watson
Ivan Weber
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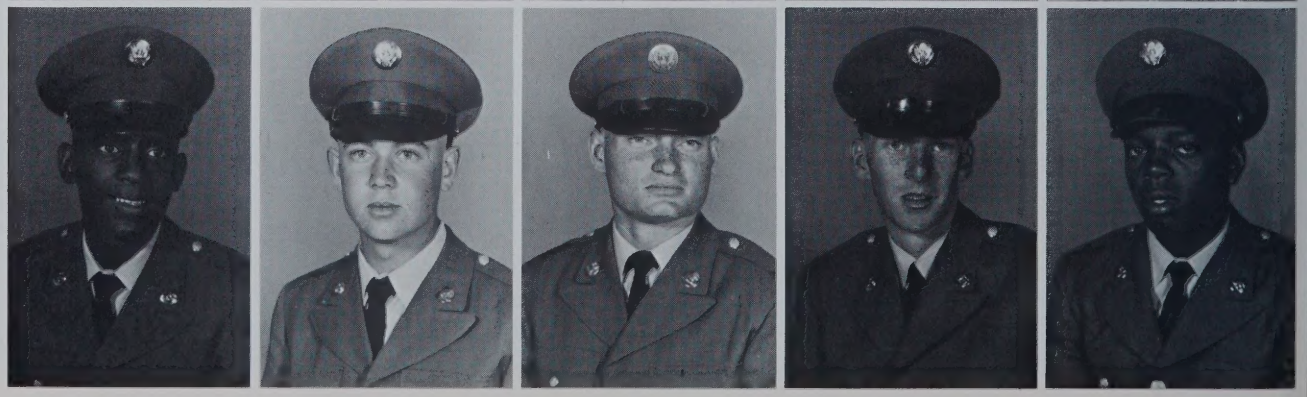
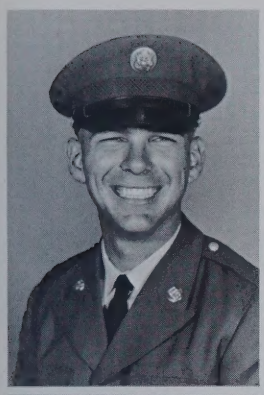
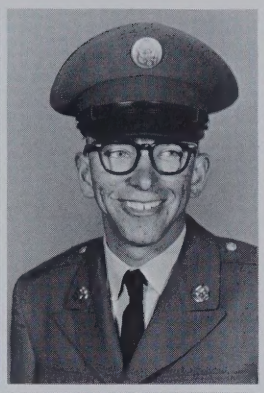
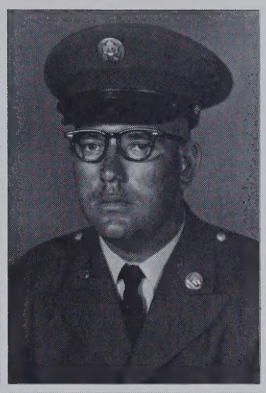
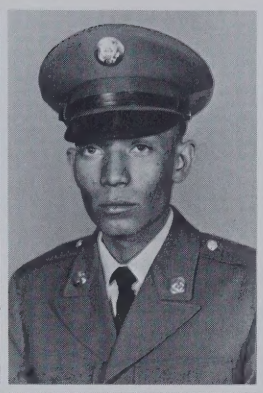
Terry Wells
Steven Westermann
Robert Whalen
Edward White
Michael White

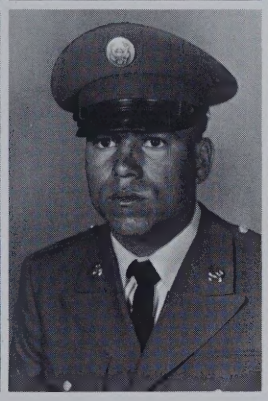
Vernon Whitehead
Anthony Williams
Michael Williams
Mike Williams
Willie Wilson

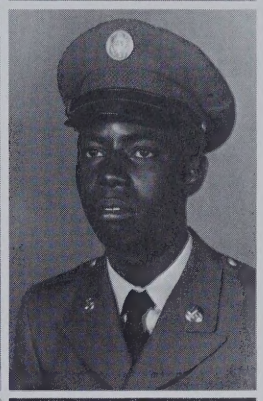




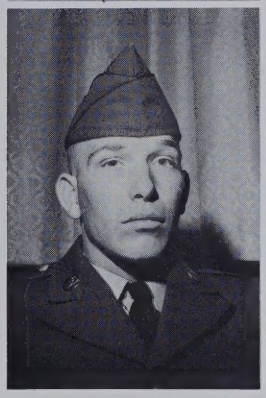




Rodney Wiseman
Terry Woodward
Steven Wright
Robert Kitner
James Zajemski

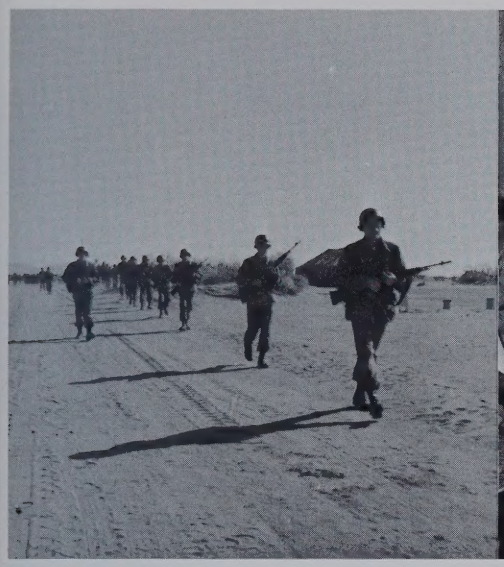


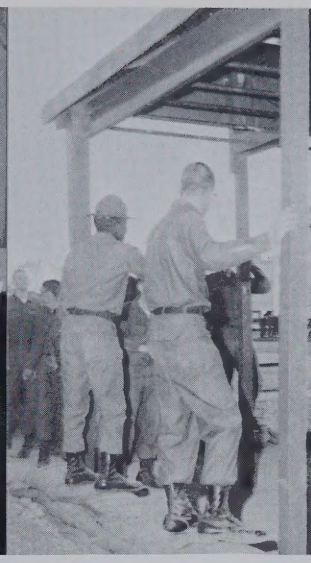


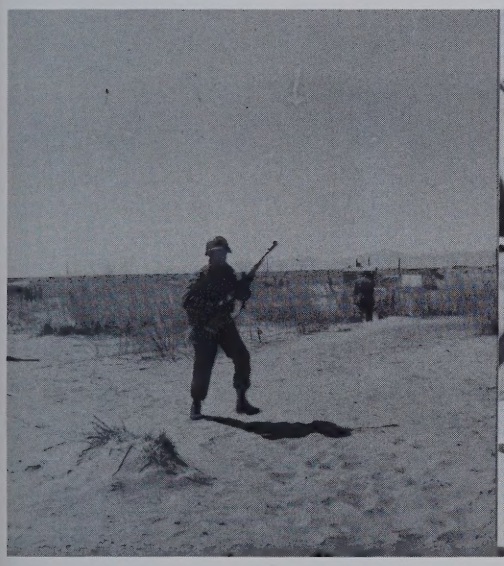
Robert Anderson
Roberto Cisneros
Robert Ford
Albert Harbin
Charlie Mosley

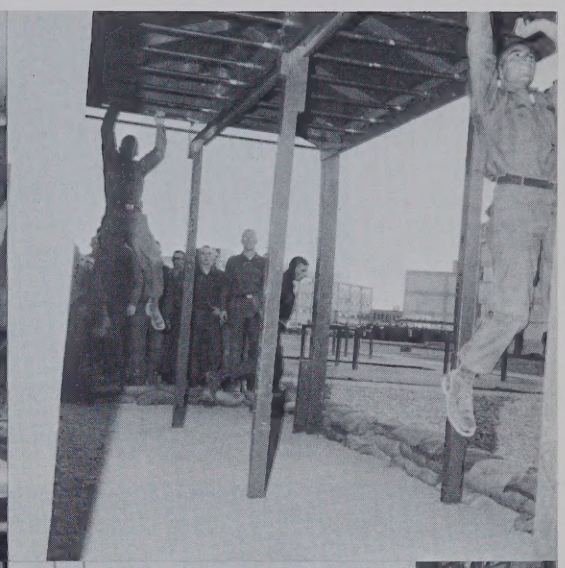


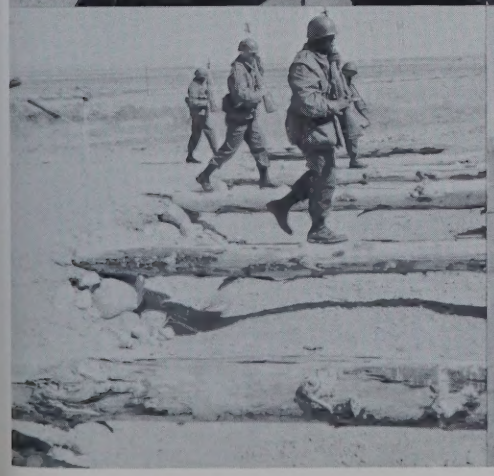
Milton Barnes
Paul Brandon
Joseph Romanczyk

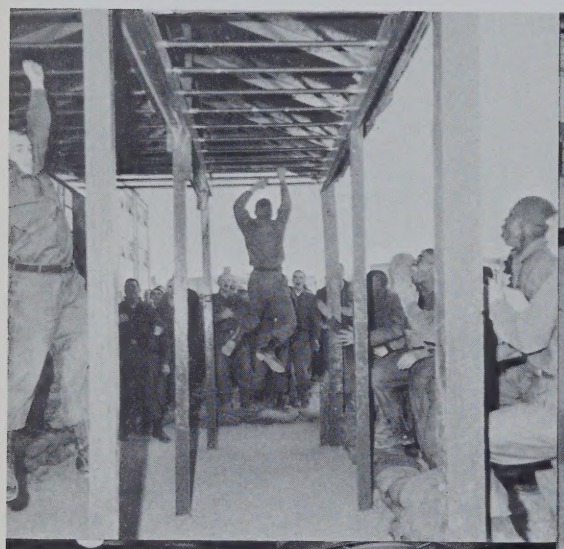


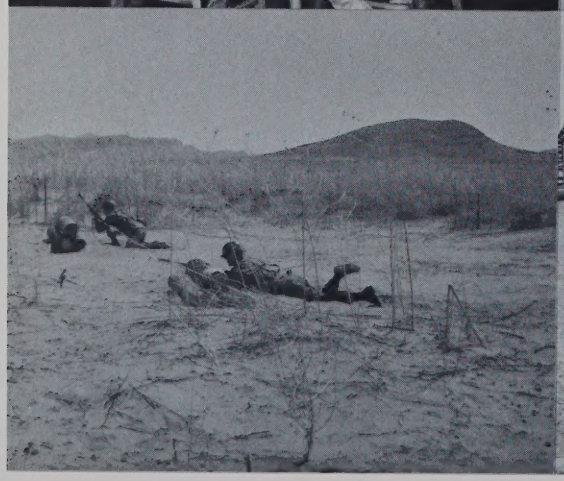


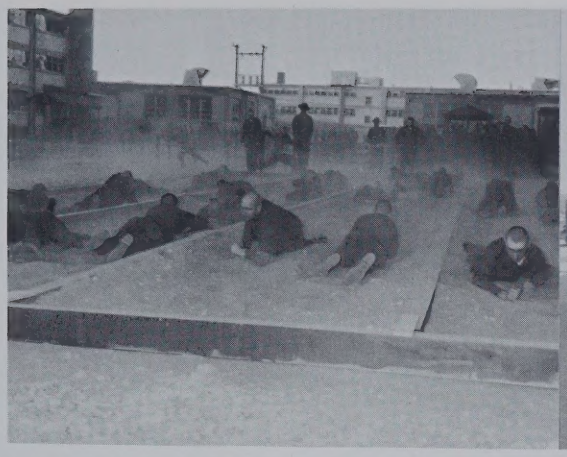


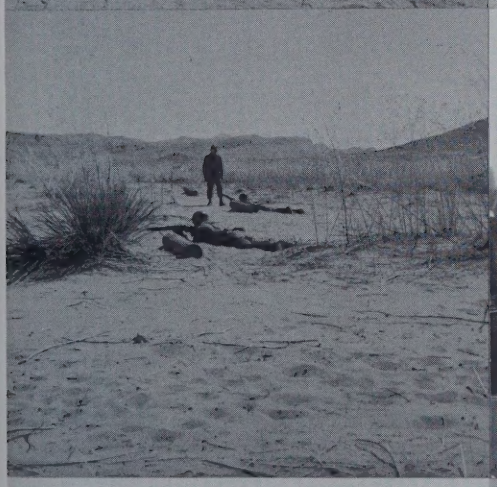


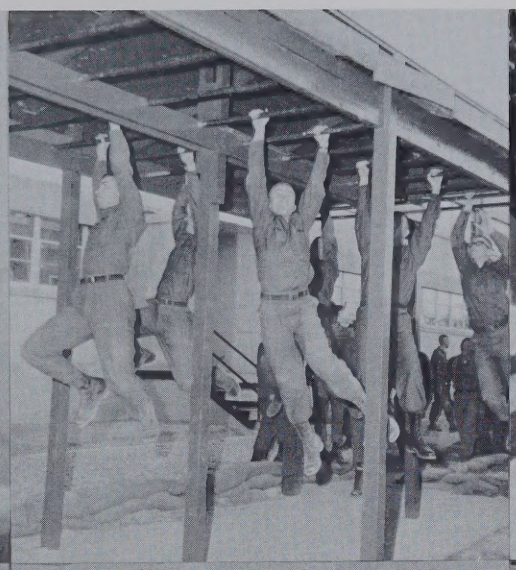












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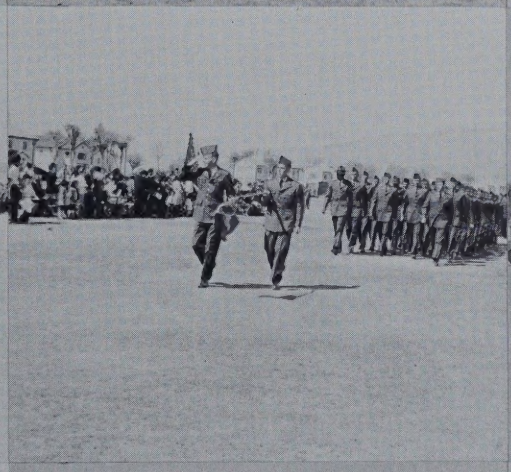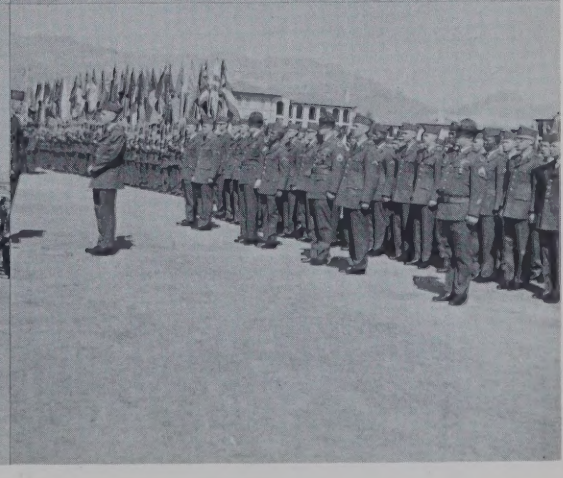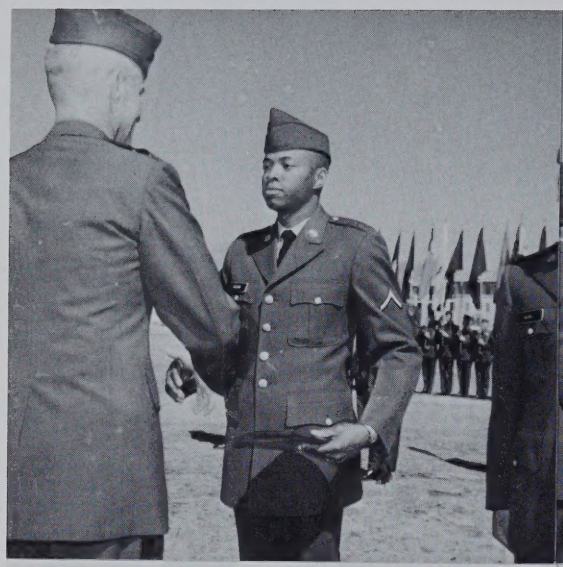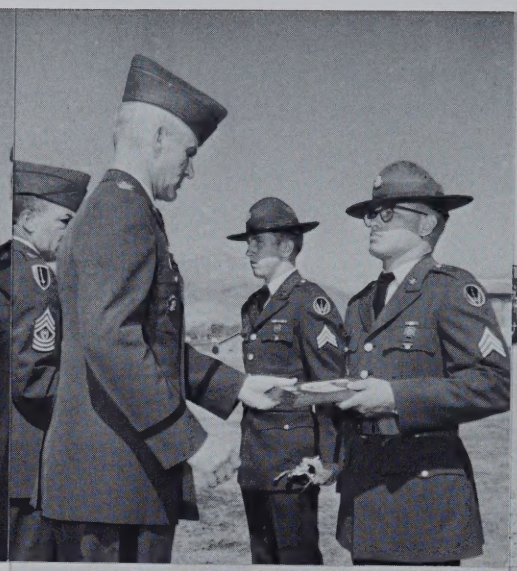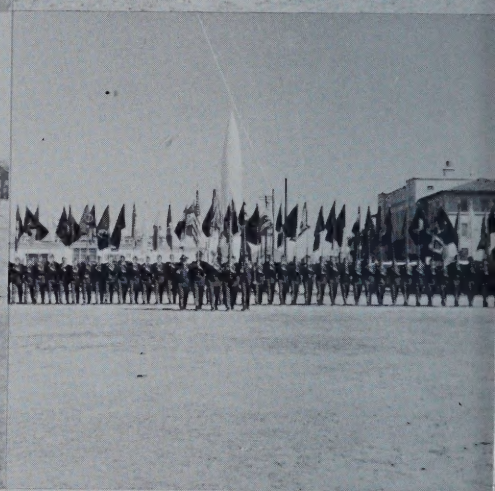
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